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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Dear Josh:

John Platt in a 1970 book quotes you to this effect: "There will be more human evolution in the next 50 years than in the last one hundred thousand." Could you give me a reference to where you developed that theme? And, do you still believe it? ①

* Did I mean strictly "biological" evolution, or cultural change with it? (Human nature is broader than.) Phenotype is becoming less relevant. The "biology" of a species with a 100-year life span is vastly different from one of 50. ②

Best regards,

James V. Neel, M.D.
Lee R. Dice Distinguished University
Professor Emeritus of Human Genetics
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① I can't locate that precise quote, and perhaps I never said just that S.S.

② It is slightly hyperbolic - I should have said 100 not 50. It might turn out to be right.

I had in mind preeminently - breakdown of isolates; then

③ changes of Malthusian fitness with
voluntary contraception
relaxation of selection: disease control, salvage of compromised progeny
prenatal diagnosis

④ least of all - "genetic engineering".

JVN:cag

availability of fph/taunni cycles.

salvage of compromised progeny

what do you think?

Jim

See p135 p.523

for phenotype: